

News Release

U of M appoints Casey Chancellor of Crookston and Durgan Dean of Extension Service

By Krista Lemos on Monday, August 15, 2005

The University of Minnesota has appointed Charles Casey Chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) and Bev Durgan Dean and director of the University of Minnesota Extension Service. Both appointments will be brought before the Board of Regents Sept. 9 for approval.

“Charles Casey has served for the past six-and-one-half years as Dean and director of Extension, where he led a successful strategic positioning process resulting in a more focused, economically viable organization that better serves the needs of the state,” said Robert Jones, senior vice president for system administration. “With his guidance, Extension has enhanced its curriculum and streamlined its delivery mechanisms so individuals, organizations and county governments have access to a broader range of university expertise and service.”

“I’m honored to be asked, and will do my best to serve Crookston,” said Casey. “This is a unique opportunity because my wife and I have roots in northwest Minnesota – we care about the future of the region because we live there. Of course, accepting this assignment means leaving Extension – a job I really liked and will miss enormously. However, I know that Bev Durgan will do an excellent job as its new Dean.”

Prior to his leadership of Extension, Casey served as director of outreach services for the university’s College of Veterinary Medicine for seven years, designing programs to connect the research and academic resources of the university with the needs of veterinarians, farmers and businesses throughout the state.

Casey also served for 12 years on the university’s Board of Regents, including chairing the Board for two years. He has served on the University Foundation Board of Trustees and the Humphrey Institute Advisory Board and currently serves on the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development Board.

Jones also said that interim CEO for UMC Joe Massey would be moving into a new leadership position. “I want to thank Joe Massey for his contributions as interim CEO for the past nine months,” said Jones. “He has led the campus ably during a time of transition and launched the strategic positioning process that will set the future direction for UMC. I am pleased that he will now devote his full attention to the critical role of leading Crookston in a new capacity as senior vice Chancellor for academic affairs and Dean. The creation of this enhanced leadership position recognizes Joe’s strong academic credentials and reflects our commitment to academic excellence at UMC.”

To replace Casey, Jones has appointed Bev Durgan, associate Dean for research and outreach in the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences (COAFES), the new Dean and director for the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

“Professor Durgan has served in several administrative capacities in COAFES, including assistant Dean for Extension and chief fiscal officer,” said Jones. “Her outstanding accomplishments in administration, finance, academic leadership, research and outreach are all qualities we want in a leader for Extension.”

Prior to her administrative positions, Durgan was a state extension faculty member in the department of agronomy and plant genetics.

“I look forward to this new opportunity at Extension,” said Durgan. “I have dedicated my career to connecting Extension and research with the citizens of the state. I know first hand the important contributions the University of Minnesota Extension Service makes to our state.”

Both appointments will be presented to the Board of Regents at their Sept. 8-9 meeting. Upon approval, both appointments will be effective Sept. 12.

For more information:

Visit the University of Minnesota, Crookston at [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).

Visit the University of Minnesota Extension Service at [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu).

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